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ORGANIZATION, PRODUCTION OF TWO RUMANIAN ABRASIVES PLANTS

[Summary] This report gives information from three Rumanian news-
papers and a periodical on the activities of two Rumanian abrasives
plants, Abrasive Colentina and Carbochim. The latter is a new plant
which opened in Cluj at the beginning of September 1952 and which is
expected to produce enough abrasives and electrodes to provide an ex-
portable surplus

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The entire 1952 production plan of Abrasive Colentina was fulfilled by
23 August, national liberation day. Every worker in the plant engaged in com-
petition. Economies of 79,184 lei were achieved. Quality brigades under lead-
ing workers Nicolae Cioca and Savas Papazian raised the quality of products
and exceeded daily norms on the average of 50 percent. An economy brigade
under Andreus Zaharia succeeded in cutting production costs. As a result of
all these measures, the 1952 plan was fulfilled early with a 68-percent rise
in labor productivity. Production costs declined 10.4 percent instead of the
7 percent planned.(1)

The new Carbochim plant in Cluj is producing electrolytic graphite for
the first time in Rumania. The plant has also begun production of carborun-
dum and polishing stones.(2) The recent expansion of electrochemical and elec-
trometallurgical industries has increased the need for carbon electrodes, thou-
sands of tons of which will be needed per year. Hundreds of thousands of pol-
ishing stones are used yearly in all branches of Rumanian industry. Up to
1952, hundreds of tons of abrasives were imported annually. Now all of these
materials will be produced domestically and a surplus will be left for ex-
port.(3)

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The entire plant, including roads and side tracks, will cover an area of 41,000 square meters. (3, 4) It was built by Sovromconstructii No 3, Cluj, with the aid of Soviet construction equipment such as cement mixers, excavators, conveyer belts, light cranes, welding equipment, and other items. The machinery for Carbochim was produced by the 23 August Steel Plant, Sovrommetal, Vulcan Machinery and Equipment Plant, Steaua Rosie Equipment Plant, Unio Railroad Equipment Plant, and the Independenta Agricultural Equipment Plant. (2, 3, 4) Plans for the construction of Carbochim were drawn up by IPROMET (Institutul de Proiectari Metalurgice, Institute of Metallurgical Planning) and IPROCHIM (Institutul de Proiectari Chimice, Institute of Chemical Planning). (2) The plant was placed in operation 2 years ahead of schedule. (5)

The principal components of Carbochim are the polishing stone section, the abrasives section which began operations in 1952, and the electrode section headed by Juri Eliscu, which opened in the fourth quarter 1951. In addition, there are a technical laboratory and an inspection laboratory, a shop for baking powder, and a shop for grinding electrodes. (7) The plant also has a converter (convertitor) section (5) and a stone grinding section which produces 2,000 different types of polishing and grinding stones. (7)

The electrode section is equipped with a 1,600-ton press built and installed at the beginning of 1952. This press was to have been imported from West Germany, but the Bonn government did everything possible to delay delivery. Finally, Romanian technicians aided by Soviet planners and engineers produced the press in less than 6 months. A special team of workers from the 23 August Steel Plant, working under Master Petrescu (fnu), mounted the press in 3 months. The electrode section was organized by Juri Eliscu, who was trained by Soviet technicians at Zaporozh'ye in the Dnepropetrovsk Electrode Plant. He was taught how to solve the problem of impregnating electrodes and stabilizing the composition of graphite and amorphous electrodes. (6) The huge press of the electrode section will mass produce electrodes for electric furnaces engaged in smelting steel. (7)

Carbochim is equipped with electric cars, rolling bridges, elevators, conveyer belts, and modern safety devices. (7)

By the construction of Carbochim, one of the most important problems of Romanian industry will be solved. This is the need for a constant supply of abrasives and electrodes for the metallurgical, petroleum, and other industries. (2) The increased electrode supply to industry will permit greater production of steel, caustic soda, carbide, abrasive materials, synthetics, and other items. It will also permit the further development of the ferrous alloy and special steel industries. (7)

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1. Viata Capitala, 6 Sep 52
2. Romania Libera, 19 Sep 52
3. Stiinta si Tehnica Pentru Tineret, Dec 52
4. Romania Libera, 18 Sep 52
5. Romania Libera, 23 Sep 52
6. Ibid., 21 Sep 52
7. Scanteia, 19 Sep 52

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